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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 EB-08 PC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /079 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3074

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, GH
SUBJ: OFFICIAL AND DISSIDENT FIGURES FOR MARCH 30 REFERENDUM

REF: ACCRA 2598

SUMMARY: OFFICIAL FIGURES FOR REFERENDUM ON UNION GOVERNMENT CLAIM THAT THIS CONCEPT WAS APPROVED BY 223,168 VOTES. DISSIDENT FIGURES, RELEASED BY OPPONENTS OF UNION GOVERNMENT, CLAIM CONCEPT WAS DEFEATED BY 200,964 VOTES. EACH SIDE CONTINUES TO ACCUSE THE OTHER OF RIGGING OR TRYING TO RIG RFERENDUM. END SUMMARY.

1. OFFICIAL RESULTS FOR REFERENDUM, ALREADY GIVEN REFTEL, ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN GREATER DETAIL. THEY ALLEGE THAT SIX OF GHANA'S NINE REGIONS VOTED "YES" (IN FAVOR OF UNION GOVERNMENT) AND THAT OF 1,983,678 VOTES CAST, 56 PER CENT (1,103,423) WERE "YES" AND 44 PER CENT (880,255) WERE "NO". TURNOUT REPRESENTS ABOUT 43 PER CENT OF ELECTORATE OF 4.6 MILLION.
BY REGION, OFFICIAL RESULTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

REGION	"YES"	"NO"
GREATER ACCRA	118,406	113,036
EASTERN	118,949	142,027

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ASHANTI	142,795	170,122
CENTRAL	116,100	76,386
VOLTA	102,111	92,062
BRONG AHAFO	65,158	138,820
WESTERN	122,606	50,229
NORTHERN	143,144	48,472
UPPER	174,154	49,101

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TOTALS	1,103,423	880,255

2. ANTI-UNION GOVERNMENT FORCES, NOTABLY PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE (PMFJ), HAVE A DISSIDENT SET OF RESULTS ALLEGING THAT UNION GOVERNMENT WAS ACTUALLY DEFEATED:

REGION	"YES)	"NO"
GREATER ACCRA	110,007	207,251
EASTERN	201,081	221,305
ASHANTI	181,917	305,628
CENTRAL	214,132	95,034
VOLTA	181,903	120,084
BRONG AHAFO	49,998	262,943
WESTERN	100,059	178,508
NORTHERN	157,909	110,076
UPPER	202,324	99,464
TOTALS	1,399,330	1,600,294

3. COMMENT: PMFJ SUPPORTERS CONTINUE TO ASSERT THAT GOG RIGGED REFERENDUM BY MISCOUNTING VOTES& THEY CITE NUMEROUS IRREGULARITIES -- SOME DISTANT CONSTITUENCIES REPORTED IN BEFORE ACCRA; TOTALS FOR VARIOUS CONSTITUENCIES WERE CHANGED, BALLOTS MAY HAVE BEEN COUNTED AT CONSTITUENCY HEADQUARTERS RATHER THAN AT POLLING STATIONS, AS REFERENDUM REGULATIONS REQUIRED: RESULTS FROM SOME REGIONS WERE VERY LOPSIDED, SUGGESTING THAT CHIEFS WERE BOUGHT OFF; AND ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER ABBAN FELT IT NECESSARY
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TO GO INTO HIDING. FOR THEIR PART, UNION GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS SAY THE "YES" VOTES WON EVEN THOUGH THE OPPOSITION TRIED TO STUFF BALLOT BOXES WITH "NO" VOTES. BOTH SIDES PLAN TO CONTINUE DEBATE IN THE COURTS.

4. WE LACK DATA ON WHICH TO DECIDE WHETHER EITHER SIDE, OR BOTH, TAMPERED WITH RESULTS OF REFERENDUM. HOWEVER, IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED HERE, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE ELITE, THAT GOG, FEARING DEFEAT, SOMEHOW INTERVENED TO MAKE SURE "YES" VOTES WON. THIS PERCEPTION, WHETHER TRUE OR FALSE, WILL CAST A SHADOW OVER UNION GOVERNMENT'S LEGITIMACY. AND TEND DIVIDE GHANAIANS RATHER THAN UNITE THEM. SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFERENDUMS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780154-0769
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780476/aaaacmqg.tel
Line Count: 107
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ACCRA 2598
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, GH
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